

said predetermined locations;

wrapping a thermoformable plastic sheet around said positive mold and said thermoformable plastic material; and

vacuum sealing said thermoformable plastic sheet around said positive mold so that said thermoformable plastic sheet and said thermoformable plastic material [combine] bond together.

10. (Twice Amended) The method of forming a natural foot orthosis for providing support for a lower extremity as defined in claim 8, wherein said thermoformable plastic material is a strip of copolymer including a distal end, wherein said distal end of said strip is centered on a longitudinal arch on said positive mold and said strip is adapted to extend below the malleoli posterior of said positive mold, above the tendon region of said positive mold and curved centered proximal over an edge of said positive mold.

15. (Twice Amended) A natural foot orthosis for providing support for a lower extremity, comprising:

a rigid support structure for holding and supporting the lower extremity; said support structure being formed from a strip of thermoformable plastic material [integrally formed with] bonded to a sheet of thermoformable plastic material; wherein said support structure is reinforced in predetermined areas [and

positioned depending upon the particular extremity support desired] with said strip of thermoformable plastic material to provide additional support for the natural foot orthosis.

24. (Twice Amended) The natural foot orthosis for providing support for a lower extremity in claim 15, wherein said strip of thermoformable plastic material is centered on a longitudinal arch on said support structure and adapted to extend below the malleoli posterior of said positive mold above the tendon region of said positive mold and [curves] curved centered proximal over an edge of said support structure.

REMARKS

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Official Action of June 5, 1998. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for a Three Month Extension of Time*, which extends the period for response to December 7, 1998. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this response is timely filed. For the reasons set forth in detail below and in light of the personal interview conducted with Primary Examiner Dvorak on November 16, 1998, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are neither anticipated by, or obvious in view of the cited prior art references. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.